SkillsUSA Advisors, (SkillsUSA 2026-2027 #5)

Item #1: **ACTION ITEM!** Fall Leadership Conference Registration Deadline!

Register now for the Fall Leadership Conference at the Carousel Hotel in Ocean City on November 5-6. 2026! You can register up to thirty-five (35) attendees (1 chaperone for every 10 students is recommended). Contact the state director if you would like to send more students - on a space-available basis. The SkillsUSA Conference Management System (CMS) is an easy way to register you and your chapter members for the FLC. For advisors new to SkillsUSA Maryland, the CMS is the same online system used to add student and professional members.

The registration deadline is **Friday, October 9, 2026.** If you have any questions or challenges with the CMS, please contact registration support: skillsusaresults@gmail.com

FLC webpage: https://www.new.mdskillsusa.org/fall-conference/

Item #2: Take Up the Challenge! National Conference Pin and T-shirt Design

SkillsUSA is offering the 2027 National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC) Pin and T-shirt Design Challenge to all dues-paying student members. The winning designs will become the official T-shirt and pin for the 2027 NLSC. The challenge is open now, entries must be received by February 1, 2027, at midnight ET, and winners will be announced on February 8. Download the rules below:

NLSC T-shirt Design

NLSC Pin Design

Item #3: SkillsUSA Customer Care: A New Look, Same Great Service

The Customer Care Team recently transitioned to a new customer service software to better support members. During this transition you may notice a **different look and feel to emails, messages and other communications** from the CC team.

What hasn't changed is SkillsUSA's commitment to providing the same **personal, live support** you expect. The Customer Care Team is still here, ready to connect with you and help when you need it.

Connect with Customer Care

You can reach the team by **phone, email, or live chat** for assistance with your SkillsUSA questions.

Monday & Wednesday | 8 a.m.–5 p.m. ET
Tuesday & Thursday | 8 a.m.–7 p.m. ET

Phone (toll free): 844-875-4557
Email: customercare@skillsusa.org
Live Chat: Use the chat icon on the SkillsUSA website or Registration pages.

Item #4: Work-Based Learning Spotlight: Industry Tours Guide

Planning a company visit or facility tour? SkillsUSA's Industry Tours Guide can help you turn the experience into a meaningful work-based learning opportunity. The guide supports intentional planning before, during and after a tour, with strategies to prepare students, coordinate with industry partners and help students reflect on the careers, skills and workplace expectations they observe.

Use the guide to plan your next industry tour! Access it on SkillsUSA Pathful:

1. Find the Work-Based Learning Toolkit under Professional Member Benefits and select More Details.
2. Locate Work-Based Learning Guides and select Preview.
3. Choose Download the Industry Tours Guide, then select Download Document.

Item #5: Level Up Your Membership — and Earn Free SkillsUSA Resources!

SkillsUSA advisors have an extra reason to grow their chapters this year!

Advisors who register at least 15 student members in one technical program, along with one or more instructors as professional members, by Nov. 15 will receive a free SkillsUSA Educational Resource.

Chapters can also earn SkillsUSA Framework banners by growing their membership over last year. Chapters that register 25 more members than last year will receive a SkillsUSA Framework banner, while chapters registering 50 or more additional members will receive two Chapter Framework banners.

Qualifying advisors will receive an email after Nov. 15 with instructions for redeeming their incentives.

Start recruiting now, grow your chapter and Level Up your SkillsUSA membership! Check out the promotional flyer.

Item #6: Professional Development Opportunities Coming Up in October

SkillsUSA's 2026–27 professional development is a series of virtual sessions for chapter advisors, from monthly Town Halls to hands-on technical training with industry partners. Here's what's coming up in October:

- **Introduction to the Chapter Excellence Program** | Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5 p.m. ET

Get an overview of the Chapter Excellence Program and how it can help your chapter set goals and earn national recognition.

Sessions are open to registered professional members. See the full 2026–27 schedule and registration links. Not a member yet? Register at register.skillsusa.org.

Item #7: Celebrate Excellence in Trade and Industrial Education: Nominations Due Oct. 30

Know someone who is making a difference in Trade and Industrial Education? The ACTE T&I Division, in partnership with SkillsUSA, invites you to nominate an outstanding professional whose dedication, leadership and contributions are helping strengthen career and technical education. Honorees will be recognized through the National Trade and Industrial Education Division Awards at the annual ACTE CareerTech VISION conference.

Please note: The Trade and Industrial Division Awards are separate from the ACTE Excellence Awards.

This year's conference takes place **Dec. 2–5 in New Orleans**, and the nomination deadline is **Oct. 30, 2026**. Eligible individuals may be nominated in the categories below, and self-nominations are welcome. If you submit a nomination on someone else's behalf, please notify the nominee.

- Teacher of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement

For additional conference information, please visit ACTE CareerTech VISION.

Item #8: Compete in Make48 at NLSC 2027

Can your students invent, build and pitch a brand-new product under pressure? Make48 team applications for NLSC 2027 are now open to SkillsUSA chapters. Teams of two or three students and one advisor apply with a short, creative video. Six teams will be selected to compete live at NLSC in June, where the action is filmed for Make48's docuseries on The Roku Channel.

Only the first 40 applications will be considered, and some spots are already claimed, so apply soon. Applications close Oct. 31. Learn more.

Item #9: Careers in Your Community Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education has launched the Careers in Your Community Challenge, the fourth challenge in its CTE Momentum series to prepare high school students for rewarding careers and increase access to career and technical education (CTE). The challenge invites high schools to propose solutions that improve career exploration at their schools. Submissions are due by Nov. 19, 2026 at 6 p.m. ET, and up to 10 winning teams will receive an equal share of the $50,000 prize pool.

Ready to get started? CTE teachers can review the challenge details, selection criteria and available resources with students, then work together to identify opportunities to strengthen career exploration at your schools. Subscribe to the CTE Momentum newsletter for challenge updates and reminders.

Item #10: Share Your Community Service Stories with SkillsUSA!

The SkillsUSA Champions digital hub provides new content frequently, from inspiring features to stories about the great work chapters and partners are doing. We know your chapters are doing some amazing community service work this holiday season and we would love to write about it. To submit a story idea, send us the details through our "Submit a Story" link, and SkillsUSA will contact you.

Maryland
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